(c) what are the rules regarding allotment of lockers to customers by branches of nationalised banks and whether they are on uniform basis; if not, reasons for disparity and action contemplated to implement uniform rules in this regard to avoid harassment to customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Oriental Bank of Commerce have recently increased the locker rent by Rs. 50/- per annum, after a period of six years. This has been done to meet the increased cost of operations and investments in locker cabinets. The increased rent is applicable to lockers given to new customers. For existing customers increased rent will be payable at the time of payment of annual rent. The bank has also reported that customers in Faridabad have been asked to increase their security deposit so that interest earned on deposit is equivalent to the annual rent payable for the lockers.

As regards other nationalised banks, it may be mentioned that rates of locker rent vary from bank to bank and depend upon the size of the locker, capital cost incurred on installation, expenditure on maintenance, etc. The locker facility is not a normal banking operation and is provided to customers by banks on lease basis subject to availability and feasibility.

(c) In the matter of allotment of lockers, public sector banks are governed by guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India. The said guidelines *inter-alia* provide that at least 80 per cent of lockers should be allotted by banks of first-come-first-served basis and remaining 20 per cent on business considerations. There is no objection to the banks seeking deposits from the locker holders to cover annual rent of the lockers from the interest on deposits.

**Promotion/postings in Unit Trust of India**

2665. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms for promotion/posting in the Unit Trust of India;

(b) whether there is any discrimination between male and female employees in the matter of transfer on promotion, if so, the details therefore; and

(c) the number of employees promoted during the last three years and whether they were transferred on promotion and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) The norms for promotion/posting in the Unit Trust of India (UTI) are based mainly on minimum years of service, performance report, written test and interview in accordance with the policy approved by its Board.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) During the last three years, 230 employees were promoted out of which 23 were transferred as per UTI's requirements.

**Tax evasion by Auto Parts Dealers**

2666. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shopowners dealing in auto parts in the Mangolpuri area, Delhi are not paying any Income Tax, Sales Tax, etc. to the authorities;

(b) whether Government propose to enquire the matter through CBI; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) A large number of them are paying

taxes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Tax evasion cases in Dibrugarh and Ahmedabad**

2667. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Member (Investigation), Central Board of Direct Taxes has received information in May, 1991 regarding substantial tax evasion by certain parties at Dibrugarh (Assam) and Ahmedabad, substantial benami bank accounts at Dibrugarh involving transactions worth lakhs of rupees, illegal current account with the then United Industrial Bank Limited, Dibrugarh branch in collusion with both the branch manager and the accountant of the said bank involving withdrawal of several lakhs of rupees fraudulently from the said account etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what follow-up action has been taken in the matter so far;

(c) whether Government propose an independent enquiry by some senior officers other than those in the concerned Commissioneries in view of the wide influence of the involved tax evaders; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the information as in (a) above were also handed over to the then Member (Investigation) in September, 1985 and no action was taken thereon; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to expedite the enquiry/investigations in the long pending informations as aforesaid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) A petition dated May 27, 1991 containing details of information alleged to have been furnished earlier in respect of certain parties of Dibrugarh and Ahmedabad was received in the Central Board of Direct Taxes. A copy of the petition was sent to the concerned Chief Commissioner of Income-tax for ascertaining facts relating to the allegations against the persons named in the petition. The Enquiries have been conducted and they indicate that the aforesaid petition has been made as a result of family disputes over HUF properties by a member of the family itself.

(c) There is nothing to warrant investigation by any authority other than the concerned officers having jurisdiction over the matter.

(d) No such letter of September, 1985 appears to have been received.

(e) Since the reply to party (d) is in the negative, does not arise.

**European Community strategy for Indian Development**

2668. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the European Community has a special cooperation strategy for India for 1991-95 as per the news item entitled "EC Strategy for India's Development" which appeared in the Times of India, dated October 18, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the new development projects identified for EC financing in the country during 1991-95; and

(c) what are the existing projects under EC assistance the terms on which the same has been made available and how far it has been beneficial to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) While a news item on the subject has appeared in the press, there has been no communication from the EC regarding any special cooperation strategy for India for 1991-95. It is, however understood that a proposal for development cooperation